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ON TAP

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FIRE SEASON

The Santiago Canyon Fire Incident of October 2007 caused serious damage to areas on both sides of Santiago Canyon Road located at TCWD's north-western border. Indeed, we are entering some of the most dangerous periods of the fire season; the time of year when the Santa Ana winds sweep through the Canyon areas. This is a good time to remind everyone who lives within or near the TCWD boundaries of the importance of being prepared for fires.

In 2009, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) initiated its "Ready, Set, Go" program. It is intended to review the precautions of which every resident should be mindful of before, during, and even after a major fire. The Board of Directors and staff of TCWD strongly encourage you, your family, and friends to visit the OCFA website to review the "Ready, Set, Go" Program located at www.ocfa.org.

The OCFA has provided many valuable resources, including printable checklists on how to protect your home before a fire starts, as well as videos that demonstrate how quickly fires can cause damage to residences in a short amount of time. Because of the area in which we live, being prepared for a major fire is essential!

COOL SEASON RATES

The month of October also signals the beginning of the cool season months of the District Rate Structure. When considering District Rates, it is important to note there are eight tiers. Also, there are two seasons in the TCWD rate structure,

warm and cool. Each tier allows a certain amount of gallons of water per billing period depending on the seasonal months. More water is allowed per tier in the warm season and less water is allowed per tier in the cool season:

- The warm season includes the months of April through September.
- The cool season includes the months of October through March.

The bills received in the months after September and March reflect the change in the tier allocation.

In both the warm and cool season rates, the cost of water charged the residential customer for the first four tiers is essentially TCWD's cost of water, which includes the purchase, treatment, pumping, and storage of the water. The price of water for the second four tiers is set at an increasing rate due to a "water conservation encouragement fee" component.

MAIN OFFICE LANDSCAPE PROJECT

If you have visited the District Main Office recently, you may have noticed some changes to the landscape frontage. TCWD is pleased to announce that we are extending our California Friendly Landscape at our Main Office to the parking lot key. As the project continues, the District's front parking lot will be used as a staging area much of the time, so we ask that you be cautious when visiting the facility.

Please pardon our mess as we re-landscape this facility with California friendly plants that are water efficient and will grow well in this climate. We will provide more details in the future about this project. TCWD's Board and staff invite you to drop by to see our work in progress.

HAVE YOU TRIED A SHOWER TIMER?

The District has purchased a limited quantity of shower timers. These are clever LED timers that are designed for a five minute shower. They flash blue for four and one-half minutes, and then red for the last thirty seconds. It is a great way to remind family members of the length of their respective showers, and that the water they save today may be the water that is available for use next year. If you have a teenager, or teenagers, in your household, this might be the perfect tool to shorten the length of the average teenage shower.

The District will provide one device per household while supplies last. District customers may obtain the shower timer at the Customer Service Window of the Administration Building by presenting a recent TCWD Water Bill.

CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE TRAINING WORKSHOP

On Saturday, October 23rd, TCWD is hosting a workshop designed to assist homeowners develop a California Friendly Landscape. Some of the scheduled topics for discussion are the use of native plants in residential landscapes, improving your existing irrigation system to increase water use efficiency, and the most effective watering methods to maximize water use.

The event is scheduled for 8:00 AM to Noon at the District Main Office and light refreshments will be available for all attendees. Representatives from both TCWD and the Municipal Water District of Orange County will be on hand to answer audience questions concerning residential landscape management. Additionally, a flyer for the event will be included with your next utility bill.

TCWD'S ON TAP

If you plan to attend the workshop, please remember that space is limited. In order to RSVP, contact Michael Perea, Water Conservation Coordinator, via phone at (949) 858-0277, extension 121.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board Meeting was held on September 15, 2010. The following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Consideration and possible action regarding the County of Orange AlertOC Public Mass Notification System
- Staff report and possible action relating to the South Orange County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
- Status update relating to Water Monitoring and Water Conservation efforts
- Status update relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Status update relating to Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Groundwater Treatment Facility

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD.
We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Michael Perea at
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